

# The 11th–13th Centuries

## I. THE 11TH CENTURY: CLEANSING THE PAPACY

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### A. The Crisis (1040s)

- Papacy had become a political tool of Roman aristocracy
- 1044: Violent rebellion against Pope Benedict IX — three men simultaneously claimed the papal throne

### B. Henry III Intervenes

- Holy Roman Emperor Henry III (1039–56) calls a synod and deposes all three claimants
- Places a trusted German bishop on the throne → known as "the cleansing of the papacy"

## II. THE GREAT SCHISM (1054)

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### A. Centuries of Drift

- Different languages of worship (Latin vs. Greek)
- Different church power structures
- Decades of dispute over the filioque addition to the Nicene Creed

### B. The Filioque Controversy

- Original creed: the Spirit "proceeds from the Father"
- Western addition: "...and the Son" (filioque)
- Eastern objection: added without an ecumenical council; implies two sources within the Godhead

### C. The Break

- 1054: Pope Leo IX and the Patriarch of Constantinople formally excommunicate each other
- One church becomes two: Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox
- This division remains to the present day

## III. THE RISE OF PAPAL POWER

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### A. Hildebrand / Gregory VII (1015–1085)

- Served as papal chaplain for decades before becoming pope in 1073
- Published the Dictatus Papae ("Papal Decree"), establishing supreme papal authority:
  - Only the Roman pope is rightly called universal
  - The pope alone may depose or reinstate bishops
  - The pope may depose emperors
  - The pope may be judged by no one
  - The Roman Church has never erred and never shall err

### B. The Investiture Controversy

- Investiture: a nobleman handed a new bishop/abbot a ring and staff; the bishop bowed in homage
- Gregory declared this intolerable and ordered Henry IV to stop (1075)
- Henry defied him → Gregory excommunicated Henry → Henry lost 2/3 of his army overnight
- Henry stood barefoot in snow at Canossa for three days (1077), forcing Gregory's absolution
- Henry regrouped, marched on Rome (1084), deposed Gregory, and installed his own pope
- Controversy finally settled at the Concordat of Worms (1122): spiritual symbols given only by church

### C. Thomas Becket (d. 1170)

- Archbishop of Canterbury; appointed by King Henry II to make clergy subject to civil courts
- Becket defended church independence instead — Henry's knights murdered him at the altar
- Becket declared a martyr; Henry forced to do public penance

### D. Pope Innocent III (1198–1216) — Height of Papal Power

- First pope to claim the title "Vicar of Christ" — visible representative of Christ over all kingdoms
- Placed all of England under an interdict (no sacraments) for six years; King John surrendered his kingdom to the pope (1213)
- 1215: Convened the Fourth Lateran Council
  - Officially defined transubstantiation
  - Required annual confession to a priest
  - Required Jews to wear distinctive clothing and live in separate areas

## IV. THE CRUSADES (11TH–13TH CENTURIES)

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### A. The Call (1095)

- Pope Urban II called Christians to recapture Jerusalem from Muslim control
- ~100,000 Europeans set out on "the way of the cross"

### B. Key Campaigns

- First Crusade (1099): Jerusalem captured — but crusaders slaughtered Muslims, Jews, and Christians
- Fourth Crusade (1204): Crusaders sacked Constantinople — the heart of Eastern Christianity — carrying off its treasures to Venice

### C. Theological Compromise

- Indulgences promised to crusading knights — pardon from the penalties of sin
- In the Second Crusade, the pope promised eternal life to those who fought
- No attempt at evangelism: Muslims were enemies to be killed, not souls to be reached

## V. SCHOLASTICISM: KEY THEOLOGIANS

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### A. Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109)

- Archbishop of Canterbury; one of the most significant theologians between Augustine and the Reformation
- Major work: *Cur Deus Homo* — "Why the God-Man?"
- Argued the Incarnation and Crucifixion were not merely the best way but the only necessary way to save humanity
- The logic: Man owed a debt he couldn't pay; God could pay it but didn't owe it; only the God-Man could both owe and pay the debt
- Motto: "Faith seeking understanding" — not content to believe; wanted to know why salvation had to be this way

### B. Peter Abelard (1079–1142)

- Head of the cathedral school of Notre Dame; students came from across Western Europe
- *Sic et Non* ("Yes and No"): catalogued 158 theological questions where great theologians disagreed
- Aim: use reason to reconcile apparent conflicts — not undermine faith
- Disagreed with Anselm on atonement: the cross as moral example, not substitutionary payment

### C. Peter Lombard (1100–1160)

- Called "the father of modern systematic theology"

- Four Books of Sentences: standard theology textbook for the entire rest of the Middle Ages
- Writing a commentary on it was required for a doctoral degree in theology
- First Catholic theologian to formally define the seven sacraments: baptism, communion, confirmation, penance, marriage, ordination, last rites

#### **D. Francis of Assisi (1182–1226)**

- Wealthy merchant's son; gave away his fortune after a serious illness and began street preaching
- 1219: Traveled to Egypt to preach to the Muslim Sultan — a striking contrast to the Crusaders nearby

#### **E. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)**

- Nicknamed "the dumb ox" — large and quiet; became the greatest medieval theologian
- Synthesized Aristotle's philosophy with Catholic faith: reason as foundation, revelation as temple built upon it
- Definitive architect of transubstantiation theology:
  - Substance = inner essence (what a thing actually is, grasped by the mind)
  - Accidents = outward qualities (look, taste, smell)
  - At consecration: substance of bread/wine becomes Christ's body/blood; accidents remain unchanged
- His unfinished masterwork: Summa Theologiae — set down his pen after a profound mystical experience, saying everything he had written seemed like "a piece of straw" compared to what he had seen

## **VI. DISSENT: THE WALDENSAINS (PROTO-PROTESTANTS)**

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### **A. Origins**

- ~1173: Peter Waldo, wealthy French merchant of Lyons, gave away his fortune and began street preaching
- Refused to stop when ordered by the church → excommunicated

### **B. Beliefs**

- Bible as the supreme rule of faith
- Rejected transubstantiation, purgatory, and indulgences
- Translated Scripture into vernacular languages; sent out preachers

### **C. Legacy**

- Many martyred by the Papal Inquisition
- Surviving Waldensian communities joined the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century
- The Waldensian Church in northern Italy is the oldest Protestant body in the world